

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. **(cancelled)**
2. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said middle component is slideably received by said second base component.
3. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said concave portion has a constant radius.
4. **(withdrawn)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said concave portion has a varying radius in at least one direction.
5. **(withdrawn)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said concave portion has a varying radius in at least two directions.
- 6, 7. **(cancelled)**
8. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
said convex portion extends above a generally flat surface and is surrounded by  
a groove that extends below said generally flat surface.
9. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
the middle component has an anterior edge and a posterior edge; and said  
convex portion has a center of radius that is closer to said anterior edge than it is to said  
posterior edge.
10. **(previously presented)** The assembly according to claim 17, wherein:  
the middle component has an anterior edge and a posterior edge, and the middle  
component varies in height along a direction between the anterior edge and the  
posterior edge.

11-16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A prosthetic assembly for use between a pair of adjacent vertebrae, comprising

a first base component having a first side adapted for engaging the first of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side comprising a concave portion;

a second base component having a first side adapted for engaging the second of the adjacent vertebrae, and an opposing second side;

the first sides of each of the base components comprising a plurality of sharpened at least two raised teeth and a raised portion with angled sidewalls that cooperate with bone in-growth at least one inverted frustocone, as the vertebra-engaging adaptation; and

a middle component having a first side with a convex portion thereon adapted to engage the concave portion of the first base component, and an opposing second side;

wherein the second side of the second base component is adapted to removably receive the second side of the middle component.

18. (currently amended) The prosthetic assembly of claim 17, wherein:

the sharpened ~~raised~~ teeth are positioned near a periphery of the first side of the base component and the at least one inverted frustocone is positioned in a central area thereof.

19. (currently amended) The prosthetic assembly of claim 18, wherein:

the raised portion comprises a pair of concentric raised circular portions ~~there are at least two inverted frustocones, arranged concentrically.~~